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Message Text

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10
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 PER-01 SY-05 DHA-02 AID-05

A-01 SCA-01 OMB-01 OC-05 CCO-00 PC-01 /083 W
---------- 063628
O R 202011Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3444
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMCONSUL DOUALA
AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ASEC, NI
SUBJ: LAGOS SITREP, EVENING FEBRUARY 20

1. LAGOS APPEARS TO BE QUIET AFTER SUSPENSEFUL DAY OF NATIONAL MOURNING FOR FORMER HEAD OF STATE MUHAMMED. DAY HAS BEEN MARKED BY SEVERAL LARGE COMMEMORATIVE GATHERINGS AND PROCESSIONS. WHILE ATMOSPHERE HAS BEEN TENSE, POPULACE HAS BEEN ORDERLY AND RESPECTFULLY SUBDUED.

2. EMBASSY VICINITY HAS BEEN BUSY WITH SEVERAL LARGE PROCESSIONS PASSING NEARBY. POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF THE SIZEABLE CONTINGENT OF
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ARMED POLICE, PROCESSION MEMBERS KEPT MOVING, SHOWED NO PARTICULAR

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INTEREST IN CHANCERY. IN MOST INSTANCES, PROCESSIONS WERE KEPT TO ROUTES SEVERAL BLOCKS AWAY FROM IMMEDIATE LOCALE OF EMBASSY AND BRITISH HICOM. CHURCH SERVICE FOR MUHAMMED'S ADC, WHICH HELD EARLY AFTERNOON IN ANGLICAN CHURCH ACROSS ROAD FROM CHANCERY, DREW VERY LARGE CROWD AND STREETS AROUND WERE JAMMED WITH VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIANS FOR SHORT WHILE AFTERWARDS. MASSIVE COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY WAS HELD FOR MUHAMMED AT CITY HALL, FEW BLOCKS AWAY FOR SEVERAL HOURS LATE AFTERNOON. AGAIN, NO UNTOWARD INCIDENTS OCCURRED. LARGE NUMBERS ARMED MILITARY IN CONSPICUOUS ATTENDANCE.

3. THUS FAR, NO ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE ABOUT WHEN BORDERS AND AIRPORTS WILL BE REOPENED TO INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC. CURFEW STILL IN EFFECT FROM 2000 TO 0600 HOURS. DESPITE REPORTS OF ISOLATED HARRASSMENT OF AMCITS UP COUNTRY, NO INJURY TO ANY AMERICANS HAS BEEN REPORTED.
EASUM

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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To: STATE
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